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SPECIFIC GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS

OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS

United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

Report of the Secretary-General

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Introduction

1. The present report supplements and updates as at 30 November 2001 the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on the status of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery (hereafter "the Fund") of 20 July 2001 (A/56/205) and the report of the Secretary-General to the Commission on Human Rights (E/CN.4/2001/82 of 12 December 2000 and Add.1 of 19 February 2001) containing the recommendations adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Fund (hereafter "the Board") at its sixth session in January 2001, which have been approved by the High Commissioner for Human Rights on behalf of the Secretary-General.

I. MANDATE OF THE FUND

2. The General Assembly, in its resolution 46/122 of 17 December 1991, established the Fund with the purpose of extending humanitarian, legal and financial aid to individuals whose human rights have been violated as a result of contemporary forms of slavery and assisting representatives of non-governmental organizations from different regions who deal with issues of contemporary forms of slavery to participate in the deliberations of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery (hereafter "the Working Group") by providing them with financial assistance. Funding is obtained by means of voluntary contributions from Governments, non-governmental organizations, other private or public entities and individuals.

II. ADMINISTRATION AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

3. In conformity with the above-mentioned resolution, the Fund is administered in accordance with the relevant financial regulations and rules of the United Nations on general trust funds for humanitarian assistance, by the Secretary-General, through the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), with the advice of a Board of Trustees.

4. The Board is composed of five United Nations experts with relevant experience in the field of human rights and, in particular, of issues of contemporary forms of slavery, serving in their personal capacities. In October 2001 the Secretary-General appointed the following members for a three-year renewable term ending on 31 December 2004, in consultation with the current Chairman of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, with due regard to equitable geographical distribution: Swami Agnivesh (India); Theo van Boven (Netherlands); Cheikh Saad-Bouh Kamara (Mauritania); Tatiana Matveeva (Russian Federation); and José de Souza Martins (Brazil).

III. BENEFICIARIES

5. In accordance with the selection criteria adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/122, the beneficiaries of assistance from the Fund shall be, in the opinion of the Board: (a) individuals whose human rights have been severely violated as a result of contemporary forms of slavery, (b) representatives of non-governmental organizations dealing with issues of contemporary forms of slavery who would not be able to attend the session of the

Working Group without the assistance provided by the Fund and who would be able to contribute to a deeper knowledge on the part of the Working Group of the problems relating to contemporary forms of slavery.

IV. GRANTS CYCLE

6. The deadline for submitting applications for travel or project grants was 15 September 2001. Admissible applications received will be examined by the Board at its next session, scheduled to take place in Geneva from 21 to 25 January 2002. The recommendations for grants adopted by the Board at that session will be submitted for approval to the High Commissioner for Human Rights, on behalf of the Secretary-General. The grants approved should be paid in March/April 2002. Beneficiaries of travel grants will attend the Working Group, scheduled to take place in Geneva in May/June 2002. Beneficiaries of project grants will have to provide to the secretariat of the Fund narrative and financial reports on the use of their grants before 1 November 2002. Those organizations which can prove that it is impossible at that time to provide final reports will have to provide interim reports by 1 November 2002 and final reports by 1 January 2003. Until satisfactory reports on the use of previous grants are received, no new project grant can be paid to these beneficiaries.

V. PAYMENT OF VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS BY DONORS

7. In order to meet the requirements of the above-mentioned grants cycle and new requests for funding received during a current year, new voluntary contributions should be paid by donors to the Fund by the end of November in order to be duly recorded by the United Nations Treasurer in advance of the annual session of the Board. Contributions which cannot be recorded before the session of the Board will be carried over to the following year.

8. New contributions available for allocation at the sixth session of the Board in 2001 amounted to US$ 113,903 (see E/CN.4/2001/82/Add.1, annex I). According to information available at OHCHR the amount available for grants was approximately US$ 285,000 (ibid., para. 6).

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD AT ITS SIXTH SESSION

9. At its sixth session, in January 2001, the Board thanked donors at their annual meeting with the Board and recommended 18 project grants for an amount of US$ 174,415 and 13 travel grants for an amount of US$ 25,715 to allow representatives of NGOs to participate in the session of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery which took place in Geneva from 11 to 15 June 2001 (for detailed information on these recommendations, including a list of beneficiaries of grants, see E/CN.4/2001/82/Add.1). The above-mentioned project grants have been paid and eight beneficiaries of travel grants participated in the Working Group.

10. The Board appealed for new contributions and estimated that it would need US$ 400,000 a year to function effectively.

VII. SUB-COMMISSION ON THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND WORKING GROUP ON CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY

11. When considering the item on its agenda concerning the Fund at its twenty-sixth session, held from 11 to 15 June 2001, the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery had before it the report of the Secretary-General to the Commission on Human Rights (E/CN.4/2001/82 and Add.1). According to the Working Group the reports submitted regularly by the Secretary-General on the status of the Fund, including on contributions and their use, showed increased transparency and should encourage donors to contribute.

12. As members of the Board were not able to attend this year's session of the Working Group at their own expense, the Working Group invited the Secretary of the Fund to introduce and update the report of the Secretary-General to the Commission on Human Rights (see E/CN.4/Sub.2/2001/30, para. 102 and E/CN.4/2001/82 and Add.1).

13. The issues raised at the twenty-sixth session of the Working Group by the beneficiaries of travel grants from the Fund were many and varied, including trafficking in persons for the purposes of sexual exploitation and child prostitution (which was the main theme of the session), debt bondage and bonded labour, the sexual exploitation of children and slavery-like practices and the situation of child domestic workers (ibid., para.100). All participants welcomed the abundance and quality of the testimony and presentations made by former victims and organizations active in and acquainted with daily reality in the field. According to the Working Group, they brought a practical, human dimension to the Group's work, enabled it to keep abreast of developments and were extremely useful to the Group. The Working Group expressed its appreciation for their participation and valuable contribution to its work (see E/CN.4/Sub.2/2001/30, para. 136, recommendation 3, para. 2).

14. In its resolution 2001/19 of 16 August 2001, the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights expressed its appreciation for the participation at the twenty-sixth session of the Working Group of eight representatives of non-governmental organizations financed by the Fund, including victims of contemporary forms of slavery, and for their valuable contribution to the Working Group. It invited the Board of Trustees to promote the participation at the annual sessions of the Working Group of individuals and organizations from as large a number of countries as possible, in accordance with the priorities established in the agenda of the Working Group. Concerning project grants funded by the Fund, the Sub-Commission noted with satisfaction that 18 project grants had been paid by the Fund to local non-governmental organizations which worked on issues of contemporary forms of slavery. It also expressed its support for the work of the members of the Board of Trustees of the Fund, in particular their fund-raising activities.

VIII. SEVENTH SESSION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

15. The seventh session of the Board is scheduled to take place in Geneva at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Palais Wilson, from 21 to 25 January 2002.

16. At the time of drafting the present report, according to information available at OHCHR, the new contributions paid and registered by the United Nations Treasurer which are available for the seventh session are as follows:

Table 1

Contributions received from Governments as at 30 November 2001

States	Amount in US$	Paid on
Brazil	10 000	5 April 2001
Burkina Faso	1 369	8 December 2000[a]
France	20 198	11 April 2001
Holy See	1 000	15 January 2001[b]
Sub-total	32 567	

[a] Although the contribution was paid on 8 December 2000, the official receipt was received after the sixth session.

[b] Although the contribution was paid on 15 January 2001 the official receipt was received after the sixth session.

Table 2

Contributions received from non-governmental organizations and individuals as at 30 November 2001

NGOs and individuals	Amount in US$	Paid on
Association of Human Rights Lawyers/ Karen Parker (USA)	500	26 December 2000
Kansai Electric Power Dispute Committee/ Japanese Workers Committee for Human Rights	116	24 August 2001
Instituto Oscar Romero, Italy	596	17 April 2001
Students and Teachers of the Archway School, United Kingdom	2 817	23 July 2001
Yorio Shiokawa (Japan)	232	24 August 2001
Roberto Zanotto and Rita Cattelan	150	27 September 2001
Sub-total	4 411	
Grand total Tables 1 + 2:	36 978	

17. The following pledges have been made as at 30 November:

Table 3

Pledges made as at 30 November 2001

States	Amount in US$	Pledged on
Brazil	10 000[a]	27 April 2000
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	5 000	14 March 2000
Grand total	15 000	

[a] Pledge made for three years (US$ 10,000 each year).

IX. NEEDS ASSESSMENT

18. In order to be able to fulfil its mandate satisfactorily in 2002 the Board of Trustees of the Fund estimated at its sixth session that an amount of about US$ 400,000 would be needed before its seventh session in January 2002. This includes the amount needed for travel and project grants, the annual session of the Board, programme support costs and an operating cash reserve. In accordance with the United Nations rules governing general trust funds for humanitarian assistance, such as this Fund, the above-mentioned amount includes 15 per cent of estimated annual expenditures which must be earmarked as a reserve for the following year, as well as 13 per cent of estimated annual expenditure for programme support costs.

X. FUND-RAISING

A. Resolutions

19. In its resolution 1999/46 of 27 April 1999 on contemporary forms of slavery, the Commission on Human Rights requested the Secretary-General to transmit to Governments an appeal for voluntary contributions to the Fund.

20. In its resolution 2001/19, the Sub-Commission expressed its appreciation to the donor Governments, organizations, trade unions and individuals, including young students, who had contributed to the Fund and encouraged them to continue doing so. The Sub-Commission also urged all Governments, non-governmental organizations, other private and public entities and individuals to contribute to the Fund and encouraged them to do so in order to enable the Fund to fulfil its mandate effectively in the year 2002.

B. Appeal for funds by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

21. As recommended by the Board of Trustees and the Commission on Human Rights, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights sent a letter to all Governments on 19 November 2001 drawing their attention to the above-mentioned resolutions of the

Commission and Sub-Commission and appealing to them to contribute to the Fund, if possible, by the end of the year 2001 so that their contributions could be taken into consideration by the Board at its seventh session in January 2002 and recommended for travel and assistance grants in the year 2002.

C. Meeting with regular donors

22. As part of the current practice of regular reporting to donors on the financial situation and activities of the Fund, a technical information meeting for regular donors will be organized on 12 December 2001 with the secretariat of the Fund and Board at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, at which relevant reports and documents on the activities of the Fund will be distributed and discussed. Donors will have the possibility to ask questions concerning the activities of the Fund and Board. Another technical information meeting between the Board and regular donors will take place in January 2002, during the session of the Board.

XI. HOW TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE FUND

23. Voluntary contributions to the Fund can be made by bank transfer to the "United Nations Geneva General Fund":

(a) In US dollars (US$), at account No. 240/C/590/160.1;

(b) In any other currencies, at account No. 240/C/590/160.0,
c/o UBS AG, P.O. Box 2770, CH-1211 Geneva 2,
Swift address: UBSWCHZH12A.

Payments can also be made by cheque to the order of the "United Nations", to be sent to The Treasurer, United Nations Office in Geneva, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland.

Please mention, in any case, in your payment order: "For the Slavery Fund, account SH"

XII. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

24. For any additional information about this Fund, please contact the Fund's secretariat, at Trust Funds Unit, SSB OHCHR, United Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland; phone: (+41 22) 917 91 64, 917 91 45 or 917 92 66; fax: 917 90 17; e-mail: dpremont.hchr@unog.ch/eortado-rosich.hchr@unog.ch.